

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06357 140252Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EPAE-00 SMI-01 DODE-00
CEQ-01 INT-05 IO-14 /070 W
-----085404 140255Z /62
R 140008Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4031
INFO AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6357

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, SENV, IWC-1, AS
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN WHALING COMPANY CLOSING DOWN

REF: STATE 198891 (NOTAL)

1. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AUSTRALIA'S ONLY WHALING COMPANY WOULD BE CLOSING DOWN WAS MADE JULY 31 BY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CHEYNES BEACH WHALING COMPANY, MR. JOHN SALEEBA, AT START OF HEARING OF ROYAL COMMISSION INTO WHALING IN ALBANY, WEST AUSTRALIA. SALEEBA STATED THAT THIS WAS AN IRREVERSIBLE ECONOMIC DECISION FORCED BY INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION CATCH QUOTA CUTS AND DIFFICULTIES IN SELLING WHALE OIL OVERSEAS.

2. COMPANY'S CHAIRMAN, R.L. HUNT, WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID SUBSEQUENTLY THAT SINCE THE TERMS OF THE INQUIRY WERE ANNOUNCED, INCLUDING QUESTION OF WHETHER AUSTRALIA'S WHALING SHOULD CEASE ENTIRELY, CHEYNES BEACH'S USUAL BUYERS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO MAKE FORWARD ORDERS. ONLY ONE SALE OF 1000 METRIC TONS HAD BEEN MADE THIS YEAR, AT A PRICE BELOW PRODUCTION COSTS. FOUR HUNDRED TONS REMAINED IN STOCK AFTER THIS SALE, WHEREAS COMPANY USUALLY WOULD SELL ALL OF ITS PRODUCTION AND A GREAT DEAL FORWARD BEFORE BIG KILL IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

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3. LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS STATES THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS TO ACTUAL CLOSURE DATE, AND COMPANY IS INVESTIGATING ALTERNATIVE USES FOR ITS PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

4. PRESIDING JUSTICE ADJOURNED ENQUIRY FOLLOWING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, AND FUTURE STATUS HZ ENQUIRY IS UNCERTAIN.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHALING, FISHERIES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 98ff0d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: EFIS, SENV, EIND, AS, IWC-1
To: STATE
Type: TE
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